

September 27, 1999  
DT-99-036

MEMORANDUM

TO: Designated Agency Ethics Officials and  
1999 Annual Conference Attendees

FROM: Barbara A. Mullen-Roth  
Associate Director for Education  
and Program Services

SUBJECT: Ideas for the 2000 Annual Government Ethics Conference

Thanks to all of you who took time to complete an evaluation form for the 1999 Annual Government Ethics Conference recently held in Williamsburg, Virginia. According to the evaluation forms submitted, this past conference was very well received, despite the fact that it was cut short because of hurricane Floyd.

It is never too early to start planning for a conference. While thoughts about the recent conference are still fresh in your mind, I would like to solicit your ideas about next year's conference. In particular, I would like to know what topics you would like to see covered, both in concurrent sessions as well as by plenary speakers, your willingness to participate in a session or suggestions of individuals who might be willing to participate. Please use the attached proposal form to submit your ideas and suggestions.

In addition to proposals for topics and speakers, I would like to solicit your thoughts on the following two comments we have received consistently over the years.

1. Handouts. Every year we receive questions about why we do not provide handouts from each session to all attendees. The primary reason has been that because the conference is so dependent on the ethics community members' willingness to take time from already overloaded schedules to prepare sessions, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) has been reluctant to put additional pressure on the volunteers to have their material prepared by a specific date, well in advance of the conference, to ensure that 500 copies can be made.

If you were a participant in a concurrent session, would you be willing to provide your materials a month in advance of the conference? What could OGE do to help you meet this deadline?

2. Repeat Sessions. Each year we also receive questions as to why the key sessions are not repeated. Again, because the conference is dependent on the willing participation of the ethics community to conduct the concurrent sessions, and most of these individuals are paying registrants to the conference, OGE has been reluctant to ask them to give up attending more than one round of concurrent sessions so that they could conduct a session.

If you were a participant in a concurrent session, and a paying registrant to the conference, would you be willing to conduct your session twice over the course of the conference? Would it make a difference if we offered an additional round of concurrent sessions (six instead of five)? What else could OGE do to facilitate the repeating of key sessions?

Please use the attached proposal form to provide your thoughts and comments on these two questions. Your input will be very valuable as we begin to plan for next year.

For your information, OGE is working on scheduling as many of the canceled sessions from this year's conference in the Washington area as possible over the next several months. Additionally, we are attempting to obtain as many copies of the handout materials as possible, in electronic format, to put on a special section of the OGE Web site. If you have any of these materials in electronic format, please submit them by E-mail, preferably in text format, to either Tonda King at [tgking@oge.gov](mailto:tgking@oge.gov) or Barbara Mullen-Roth at [bamullen@oge.gov](mailto:bamullen@oge.gov). Watch for DAEOgrams announcing the scheduled sessions and the availability of materials.

Thanks again to all of you for your support of this conference. It's because of your efforts that the conference has enjoyed nine years of success. Let's make the tenth Annual Government Ethics Conference the best one yet!

Attachment